

THE SPRINGBOK

ISSN 0955-6753



SOUTH AFRICAN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

www.southafricacollectors.com

Volume 62 No. 3



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The Springbok is published

quarterly for the benefit of

Members of the South African Collectors,

Society. It is not

available to non-members.

Contributions in the form of letters, notes,

reports of SA

related activities, articles, etc., are always

welcome and should

be sent to the Hon. Editor.

All correspondence including a SAE will be

acknowledged.

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©South African
Collectors' Society,
2014

ISSN: 0955-6753

Vol. 62 Iss. 3 Whole No. 327
Founded 1947

Editorial

This issue of the Springbok is larger than normal. The item on the sheet No's takes up a lot of space but I thought it well worth while printing it in one magazine rather than over two magazines. I am sure that members who collect this material will find it an invaluable reference.

My inbox is now empty and I have little material for the next issue. The next issue, which will be the last of the year, is due out at the end of November.

Congratulations to Chris Oliver on receiving the prestigious Congress Award. *Page 77*

Please note that the Annual South African Philatelic Societies Conference will be held on the 7th - 9th November at usual venue the Falstaff Hotel

Membership

Welcome to New Members:

1179 Des Hill Staffordshire

1180 Dr. Jeffrey Hesselson Canada

1181 Prof Hendrik Geyer South Africa. *He visited our website and joined*

Important Notice regarding the PACKET EXCHANGE

Packets have almost ground to a halt!!

As I write this only 1 packet is currently circulating. I have some books here that have already been seen by some members and I may be able to use those to make up 2 more packets once the one currently in circulation has completed its circuit of about a quarter of the packet list. However, without more material, the packets are in danger of grinding to a halt. So, if you have any material you wish to sell, and can spare a bit of time to make them up into books you would help both yourself and the society.

Thank you.

Tony Johnson (Packet Exchange Manager)

Another Award to a Society Member: I am pleased to announce that **Nick Arrow** has been awarded the American Air Mail Society's George Kingdom Literature Award for his work on his second edition Air Mail Book. The Plaque is heavy and will be presented to him at the September Stampex.

South African Philatelic Societies Conference

7th to 9th November 2014

The Falstaff Hotel in Leamington Spa,

Dinner, bed & breakfast £60 for a single, £90 for a double (i.e. 2 sharing)

The venue, prices & format are the same as usual, I'm looking for offers of displays for both the main displays on Saturday and on Sunday you can show up to two frame of material that you bring along. We had an excellent conference in 2013 and I hope many of us can make it this year.

When I have firm offers of displays, detail will be added to the society website nearer to the time.

Simon Peetoom

A REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON 31ST MAY / 1ST JUNE 2014 AT THE FALSTAFF HOTEL, LEAMINGTON SPA, WARWICKSHIRE, CV32 5JQ

by **Chris Oliver**

The second of our annual spring weekend meetings was as good as the first, due to the organising skills of Simon Peetoom. We missed a few of our usual attendees and particularly Brian Trotter and Max Whitlock who had booked to come but were prevented by health problems.

Usually when attending an indoor philatelic meeting the warm sun is shining outside. This proved not to be the case on Saturday. Otto Peetoom defied the weather by appearing in shorts when he presented his excellent display of modern S.W.A. philatelic essays, proofs and artwork from the post office archives. This presentation was accompanied by a power-point overview of the display. Otto provided a colour hand-out explaining how he acquired this material, a note of what was included and a brief biography of the artists. After a visual tour of the Namib culture and countryside we felt a little warmer. The last frame showed a progressive of the 1954 6d aerogramme which was much admired, as was the Herero woman, amongst a plethora of interesting, artistic essays.

Our Hon. Chairman, Tony Howgrave-Graham, then displayed a study of the unhyphenated roto 1d ship. This started with the Darmstadt trials which he'd tried to organise chronologically to make sense of the trials and arguments that ensued. He followed up with the issued stamp. His collection of these had been greatly enhanced by purchase of the complete range of control blocks from the Bloom sale, 4 of which are rare and many others very scarce. It also include major varieties such as missing frames, dry printings of the frames, paper joins and tête-bêche blocks from the booklet sheets.

Bob Hill's display was of slogan postmarks to 1981. He, too, provided a hand-out. This outlined the definition of a "Slogan", originally a Scots war cry, and now confined to a pithy advertisement. Bob's note also showed how slogan postmarks had increased dramatically between 1899 and 2002. In the period shown slogans were bilingual in English and initially High Dutch but then in Afrikaans and were used in a number of locations in the Union of South Africa. From an early date machine cancellations were used together with hand-roller applied slogans. In more recent times, after the period included in this display, ink-jet cancellations were introduced in 1994 and the number of postal centres was reduced to nine. From 1998, English has been designated the business language of South Africa so only that language is used on cancellations.

Nick Arrow displayed a part of his airmail collection, showing how the South African postal system managed to become linked aerially with most of the world by the start of WW II. The basic Imperial Airways service connected South Africa in 1931 with England and India, and Nick's display showed how the service was extended (to Australia by the end of 1934 and even to America in May 1939) and also how many connections were made by "feeder" services, producing an aerial postal service that was, if not world wide, then at least capable of flying mail to major centres throughout the world.



Roy Ross is well known for his interest and collection of the 1936 Empire Exhibition and J.I.P.E.X. material which was now displayed to good effect. He explained that Postal Cards were produced specially for the exhibition. The airmail cards were, however, not issued until 20th October 1936 so the 1935 Radio Exhibition cards previously produced by the Post Office were used until the Airmail cards arrived. The 1½d mine stamp, known for its printing errors, was brought out during the exhibition. Roy showed some of these varieties and also included an advertising stick for the show, on cover and a Certificate of Attendance to the Exhibition. The last frame of this display discussed catapult mail, its application and benefits for mail delivery.



John Shaw presents Bob Hill with the Abell Trophy

Four entries were produced for the Abell Trophy Competition. The competition was won, this year, by Bob Hill with his display of "Cork cancels of the Cape". He was presented with the Trophy by the President at the dinner that evening. Bob is getting used to this as he had been presented with the 'Elephants Foot' at the November meeting. John Shaw was also pleased to announce the recipient of the Wicks Award for the best article in the Springbok during the previous year [2013], Dr. John Ahmed with "South African POW's in Italy & Germany during WW II." This will be presented at a suitable Northern Meeting of the Society in Carlisle.

On the Sunday morning the first hour was designated the R.S.A. Hour to ensure that more modern material was not overlooked.

Rob and Lyn Lester displayed the first ten commemorative issues of the Republic which they had written up in 1987 and then forgotten about. This contained information on production and printing quantities.

Early R.S.A. cancellations, displayed by Bob Hill, included skeletons used 1960-1970. These were spur-of-the-moment cancellers used as an emergency measure until proper date stamps were available. Often, these were blank single ring cancels with date slugs inserted, leading to some errors.

Otto Peetoom displayed the 1992 Cape Furniture sheet with the right vertical perforation completely missing. He knew of seven sheets with this error but was at a loss to explain how this had occurred on such a small sheet of stamps.



Otto Peetoom



Our Chairman in full flow

Tony Howgrave-Graham showed modern varieties which included the 1969 2½c mail coach with a paper join affecting the top 2 rows. Modern paper joins are very scarce. He also showed the very appealing 1972 1R with partly & completely missing orange in a strip of 3 as well as perforation varieties and some dramatic ink blobs. Later, as part of the non-Republic session, our Chairman put up some recent purchases which included the 1925 Air set in right marginal

interpanneau blocks of 16 with the value controls printed twice in the right margin. These were ex the Bloom sale and hadn't been seen by Tony before, nor by anyone else present. He also put up a used 1943 forces air letter with the "Best Wishes from the SA Gifts & Comforts Fund" overprint in red. These are scarce but not as rare as suggested by the mint copy which made a staggering £4,500 in the Bloom sale - a completely incomprehensible realisation to all observers. Tony explained that Paul van Zeyl had provided his through one of his auctions for a more reasonable £120!"

Simon Peetoom had acquired a military letter with contents dated 27th September 1940. This cover was endorsed with markings which indicated that the sender was part of the S.O.E. Works. Further investigation was needed.

Otto Peetoom's contribution to this session was an interesting cover containing Captain Scott correspondence dated 4th November 1910.



Viewing

Cont'

Large War Effort stamps were displayed by Chris Oliver in which he described the positioning of varieties on 1½d value and refused to accept that the 1/3 value stamp should be included. This had been issued after the Bantam stamps and contained selvedge more akin to that issue. He had also brought some WWI civil censorship covers to explain his further research on this material.



Richard Weaver's display was of the rotogravure stamps of the Silver Jubilee issue which sport many varieties and flaws, most of which were described by Richard.

After a break for lunch Nick Arrow and his intrepid team embarked on another successful auction and, upon completion, Tony thanked all for attending and displaying, Simon for doing all the organising, Nick for his auctioneering prowess and hoped that we might all convene again on 6th/ 7th June 2015.

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A Record of the A.G.M. of the South African Collectors' Society held at The Falstaff Hotel, Leamington Spa at 17.00hrs on 31st May 2014.

- 1. Apologies** had been received from David Osborn, Max Whitlock, Bas Payne, John Dickson, Geoff Chivers, Robert Allison, Morgan Farrell, Tom Casey, Michael Berry, Peter Grimley, Brian Trotter, Eddie Bridges and Roald Sand. There were fifteen attendees.
- 2. Record of previous A.G.M.** was approved by all and duly signed by the Chairman after having been proposed for adoption by Bob Hill and seconded by Roy Ross.
- 3. Matters arising if not included elsewhere in the agenda.** There were none.
- 4. The Hon. Chairman's written report. May 2014.** I'm pleased to be able to report that the Society appears to be in good shape. We've lost some members through death or disinterest but also gained a number, which is pleasing. I welcome them and hope they find their membership useful. The reduced fees for electronic receipt of the Springbok has undoubtedly helped here.

I must just mention Donald Farmborough, our most recent loss due to a sudden massive heart attack. Although we didn't see him much he was very active in supporting the auctions and packet. He scoured material as it came through Provincial Auctions and found the first, and currently only, examples of the booklet Springbok ½d with sideways watermark. A year later he came up with a King's head 10/- with inverted watermark! "RIP Donald."

The major innovation of the year has been the development of the Society website. My thanks here to Otto Peetoom who tackled the problem with his customary energy and efficiency and has produced a superb facility for the Society. Our hope now is that he can find time to put up some of the load of material waiting to be entered. If we can complete the guide to identification of the 1926-54 Pictorials we can then possibly approach Gibbons & SACC to see if they'd put a link to the website by the relevant pages in their catalogues. I know the immense amount of time that was put in over the first few months, so "Thank you Otto".

My thanks also to Chris Oliver who, as Secretary, continues to organize Society affairs as efficiently as ever, and to the other members without whose efforts the Society would founder. Particularly here to Roy Ross whose taking over of the Springbok is turning out to be a great success and also to Max Whitlock for his work distributing it. Also thanks to Nick Arrow who runs the auctions (and I know how much work this involves!) and to David Osborn for organizing the accounts.

Many congratulations, by the way, to Chris for winning the Congress Medal after this Society submitted his name for consideration. The charming Susan already having won it, they form the second husband and wife winners, the first being the late Harry and Doris Green who were awarded it in consecutive years, some while ago. Congratulations also to Robert Johnson who has become as "distinguished" as we always knew he was.

Thanks also to Simon Peetoom for his efforts in arranging the Leamington meetings and to the new contributors to the Springbok. It's very good to see some new names putting pen to paper and it is providing a greater range of articles. I encourage all, and more, to continue with this - it has the added benefit of saving you all from struggling with my enforced offerings which have tended to be rather specialized and related to whatever I've been into at the time!

My best wishes - to you all.

Tony Howgrave-Graham, Chairman

5. The Hon Secretary's report to the A.G.M. This year we were saddened to learn of the death of another of our stalwart and long serving members, Jack Newman and, more recently, that of Donald Farmborough.

The big news this year is, of course, our new and improved website masterminded by Otto Peetoom with contributions from a number of sources.

Robert Johnson has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. A great honour for another of our members who does a lot for the hobby.

Our meeting at this venue, last year, proved a success, thanks to Simon Peetoom's organizational prowess. We intend to continue this, with the A.G.M. being held at this Spring weekend meeting in future years. Attendance at meetings in London has dropped a little, particularly with our experimental Sunday afternoon meeting. The Letchworth meeting was much better attended and proved a lively meeting which will be continued, we hope. Northern meetings at Carlisle continue to be well attended.

We have had one member return to the fold and have enrolled eleven new members since the last A.G.M., one of which has not renewed this year. It seems that we are not able to please all members all the time. Unfortunately, another five members have dropped by the wayside, so we are barely holding our membership numbers. About a third of members are now E-members

Paul van Zeyl still battles with health problems but he is hoping to come to Britain in July. We send him our best wishes.

c.e.o. May 2014

6. The Hon. Treasurer's report. The accounts to Dec. 2013 were as printed in the Springbok. No further report had been forthcoming and the Hon. "Auditor" considered that these accounts were acceptable. These accounts were proposed for adoption by Nick Arrow, seconded by John Richardson and agreed by all. It is assumed that the subscriptions for 2015 will remain as for 2013 & 2014.

7. Reports from other officers of the Society.

a) Hon. Editor

b) Hon. Auctioneer – Has a need for more material, please.

c) Hon Packet Secretary [stamps] - Has been hit by the trend to E-Bay dealing but is not doing too badly providing that the supply of new, good material keeps coming in.

d) Hon. Packet Secretary [covers] – the cover packet has been badly hit by the trend to E-Bay dealing and is almost dormant. It was suggested, from the floor, that the cover packet should be wound up and that any material remaining should be sent to nick for the auction, subject to the agreement of the owners.

e) Hon. Librarian – the current Library list is on the website. Ray Glanville-Jones' library of South Africa related books has been given to David Haig for incorporation into our Library. When all of these books have been received and collated, Malcolm will provide Otto and Roy with an addendum list.

8. Election of Officers and committee.

With the resurrection of the website we are pleased to appoint a new officer. Otto Peetoom was appointed web-master as proposed by Roy Ross, seconded by Rob Lester and agreed by those present. All other existing officers and committee members were willing to stand again. No others wished to stand. The committee and officers were therefore proposed en bloc by Rob Lester, seconded by Bob Hill and approved.

9. Ratification of Library Fund. As usual we allocated £200 per annum to enable the Hon. Librarian to purchase new books for the Library. Malcolm gave a good case for having this fund available to draw upon. Proposed by Roy Ross and Seconded by Nick Arrow.

10. Society meetings and events : The meeting at Letchworth, this April, was a success and we will organize another in 2015. Members, who attended, liked the visit to the British Library Philatelic Collections, but would have preferred to see more of the South African material, particularly the Monks collection. Chris will see if another visit can be made in 2015. The Carlisle meetings used to be strong but have been severely decimated in the last six years with attendance dropping by two thirds. An idea was mooted to have a weekend meeting in Carlisle so that members could attend from further afield.

Cont'

After discussion, it was agreed that this should be discussed with the membership present at this weekend. *Following discussion it was decided not to amend the current arrangement.*

11. S.A.C.S. support for Youth Philately. Malcolm Ridsdale proposed and Nick Arrow seconded that £50 should be allocated.

13. A.O.B.

a) A.B.P.S. revised Constitution - The Hon. Secretary proposed that the S.A.C.S., as an affiliated society to the A.B.P.S., should support the new constitution as the previous one had become almost unworkable. This was seconded by Nick Arrow and approved.

b) The merits of the work Otto has done on the website and what information/images members want the website to hold? – After much general discussion it was confirmed that Otto has done great things with the website in its present form. All the web titles created need filling. The continual use and updating of the website is essential. We may need to add more to attract the young enquiring mind and attract youthful members.

The meeting closed at 18.20hrs after the Hon. Chairman had expressed his thanks to the committee and of-

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ABPS Exhibitions and International Events

Autumn Stampex will take place at the Business Design Centre in London from 17 - 20 Sept 2014. Autumn Stampex is a national Exhibition judged by nationally qualified and FIP qualified judges where exhibits can qualify to enter at Continental and International level. All philatelists are invited to apply. The competition is open worldwide, although no customs assistance can be offered.

This Exhibition includes all FIP classes together with Cinderella and Picture Post Card entries. For this event specially invited displays and exhibits have been requested from the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society and Exhibits will be displayed in association with the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten.

Spring Stampex will take place from 17 - 21 February 2015 and which is a limited Exhibition of at least 200 frames to celebrate the "Diamond Jubilee of the Great Britain Philatelic Society". The Great Britain Collectors Club - USA will also be in attendance.

London 2015 Europhilex Exhibition will take place from 13 - 16 May at the Business Design Centre which will be the biggest philatelic event in Europe during 2015.

Editors note: I did receive the entry details for the Autumn Stampex but the closing date was before the print of this Springbok, therefore they are not printed here.

Customs Overprints

By Tony Howgrave-Graham



I enjoyed the Springbok & Giovanni's article on Customs overprints - Vol. 62/2 - with regard to the "missing stop" variety I attach a scan where it appears in a block of 4 2d, Issue 2, on row 20/2 - if the overprinting was as for the officials it should appear on row 10/2 as well. - It would be good if all members could send in 600dpi sharpened images of any copies of any values they may have with this variety and we could then possibly build up a better picture as to the true nature of the variety.

A VISIT TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS – 15.05.2014

By Chris Oliver

This turned out to be a joint visit as we were joined by West London P.S. to make up numbers. Thirteen visitors, seven from each society if you count the Hon. Secretary to both societies wearing two hats, were met by Paul Skinner, the curator of the Collections and his newly appointed colleague, Richard Morel, lately curator of the East India Company records at the British Library.

Paul outlined a history of the British Library and its move to the present site in 1998. He explained that the building had the deepest basements in London, where a large part of the total archive was stored. This was noted later on a model of the building, which was on show.

On the balcony housing the accessible items of philatelic interest we were introduced to such gems as British Guiana 'cotton-reel' on cover; the 1d Mauritius "POST OFFICE" stamp; the Hawaii Missionary 2c on cover; the U.S.A. Inverted Jenny stamp and 1d woodblock Cape of Good Hope vermilion variety, amongst others.

We were shown a display on engraving techniques for bank-notes and, later, stamps with Cruikshank's first security bank-note and the eulogy "Good engraving is the best way to prevent fraud" Paul explained that of their three main tasks of acquiring, cataloguing and conserving new material; disseminating information to researchers and publicising the fact that the Philatelic Collections held a great deal of unique material, the latter was most difficult and demanding. The Crawford Philatelic Library was being digitised with lists of other items which were held in the British Library.

Within the Philatelic Collection office and workroom we were invited to view much more. This included drift mail methods of St. Kilda comprising a wooden box, a sheep bladder and a float. Then, a collection of revenue stamps pre-1860; an album of gently degrading plastic "protectors" with an exhortation for us to use polyester in preference; Campbell-Johnson Collection of poster stamps, including interesting S.A. items; Kaye Collection of Revenues; the Crown Agents archive and art work; Fitzgerald Siege of Paris material including pigeon pedicles' which could be projected and transcribed for the recipient. Lastly we saw one volume of the Monks Collection of S.A. airmails and although some of us would have liked to have seen more, our visit was at an end.

Our Chairman thanked Paul & Richard for giving up their time to show us such a comprehensive view of the Philatelic Collections, and this was endorsed by all present.

REGISTERED SOUTH WEST AFRICAN POSTAL HISTORY & POSTAL STATIONERY WANTED

I am a keen collector of registered postal stationery, envelopes, postcards and airletters of SA over-printed with South West Africa in different fonts, mainly from the 1920's onwards up to around 1950. I collect mint or used and 'Specimens'

I also collect Banknotes of South West Africa (Standard Bank, Barclays Bank and Volkskas Bank) from 1920 to 1960

THEMATICS FOR SALE : I have numerous thematic sets with Birds, Flowers, Trees, Fish, Plants and Solar themes in unmounted mint condition.

SALE : COMPLETE COLLECTION OF POSTMARKS OF NATAL

Dated about 1975. Postcards cancelled from every Post Office in Natal at the time.

Numerous other items of South Africa—if there is anything that you are keen on, do enquire as I may have some for sale e.g. Complete sheet of the 1/2d grey on green Springbok, Issue 17 of May 1948 showing all the listed varieties detailed in stamps of South Africa Handbook.

Please Email: Alan Ginsberg at grebsnig@hotmail.com with any offers or enquiries about the items mentioned above or Tel: 079507807891 during normal working hours.

Scanning Images - do's & don'ts

By Otto Peetoom

In order to improve some of the images that are being sent to me, Otto has very kindly submitted this article which may be helpful to those members who are not sure how to scan images. Ed.

Stamps: The best result is to put the items on a Hagner page (a stock sheet) as this not only provides a black background, but assists in having the item straight on the scanner.



Make sure you use the correct size of Hagner; they vary from one to eight strips per page. If the strip does not cover the image, a horizontal line will be seen across the stamp when it is cropped from the page - Illustrated a don't, strip not wide enough,



Make sure the glass on your scanner is clean

Before you scan, please wipe the strip on the Hagner with a tissue to remove finger marks.

Items scanned in Hawid mounts will often register a reflection from the scanner, hence the preference of Hagner.

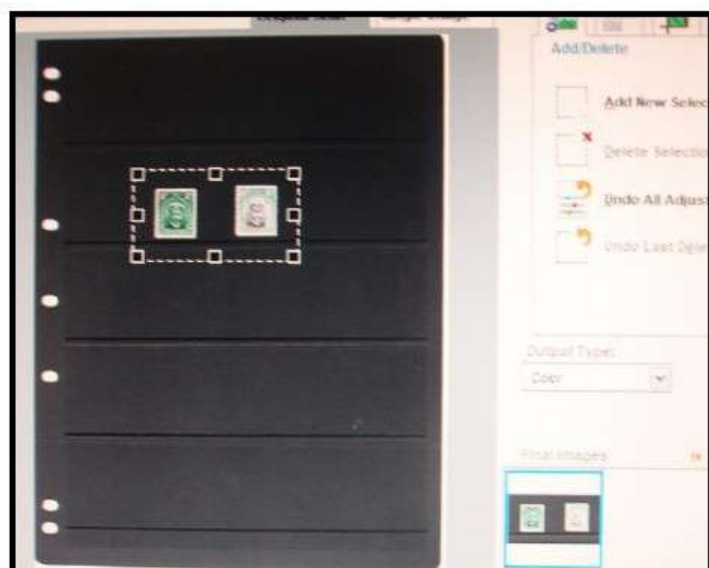
If an item is in Hawid mount remove the mount and then place in a Hagner page



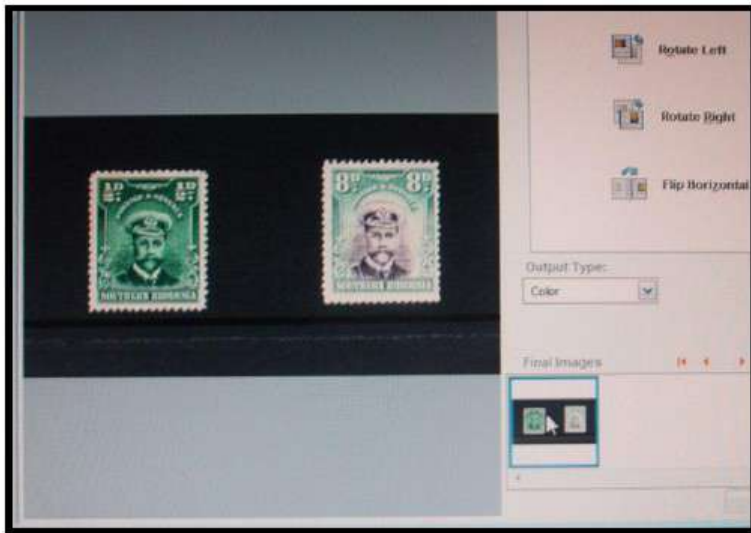
Scan at the minimum of 200dpi - 300dpi is preferable - if you are unsure what dpi your scanner is set at, click left onto one of your scans, then click right and go to 'properties' and click onto 'details' it will tell you on 'Horizontal & Vertical resolutions' what the dpi of your scan is.

To change the dpi, you may have something that either says Change settings, Advanced picture settings or go into Properties, it's there somewhere depending on the model of your scanner, if all else fails, ask any 10 year old you know.

Do not finish a scan on a complete page, as illustrated on left, because your image is in fact only a tiny portion of that page, when cropping it out it will not deliver a good scan.



As you can see, I isolate the images I want, thus I zoom in on them.



This is what I have , prior to finishing the scan.

My apologies for the last two blurred pictures - taking photographs of a computer screen does not work very well.



This is my completed scan, which will provide two good illustrations after I crop them



The finished product

Covers & larger items: Use a black background, please remove all pencil notations before scanning, I don't need the price you paid for an item!

It is very important that you place the item straight on your scanner. I crop images using 'Micro Office Picture Manager' and can only tilt an image one degree at a time. Thus if the item is not straight, an adjustment is often either too much or too little.

Please note tall vertical items are best scanned horizontally as there is less chance of having them at a slight angle



This is an example of a scan sent to me - what can I do with it?

Philatelic Literature announcement from the Royal Philatelic Society London

Please find below a most exciting announcement from the British Library. As I'm sure you will be aware, the British Library holds a fabulous and almost complete collection of philatelic literature that was published prior to 1913.

You can readily check the titles held in the Crawford Library by visiting www.rpsl.org.uk/catalogue_search.asp and searching for 'Crawford'.

Chris King
President

The Crawford Library Digitisation Project

The British Library's Philatelic Collections, with the support of funding from the British Philatelic Trust, is undertaking to digitise the Crawford Library of philatelic literature.

Bequeathed by James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford in 1913, the Crawford Library comprises of circa 4,500 volumes, (including books, periodicals, and catalogues). All languages and places of publication are represented, from 1860 until about 1913, it is undoubtedly the most important and comprehensive library in the world of philatelic literature from this period.

For preservation purposes in the 1990s the British Library prepared high-resolution microfilms of every page of every publication: this is approximately 900,000 pages! Trials have been conducted and these films are still in excellent condition and of sufficiently fine granularity to be converted into digital images and then successfully made searchable by optical character recognition techniques.

The Library is listed in the Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library, which was first published in 1911, and reprinted in 1991 with amendments and additions to the text, including where appropriate the British Library shelfmark.

Thanks to a generous grant by the British Philatelic Trust, this project can now move from being a feasibility study to reality. When the digitisation has been completed, this incredible resource will be made available online, there will be links directly to the digitized text so that researchers from around the world will be able to freely access and download the content. This will be available on both the British Library website and hosted by our partner in this part of the project, The Royal Philatelic Society London, via the Global Philatelic Library.

IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT NOTICE FOR RIGHTS HOLDERS

The British Library is inviting rights holders in works that may be included in the Crawford Library Digitisation to support the project. If rights holders prefer content not to appear, they are requested to communicate with the Library as early as possible, so that to any such works can be restricted to traditional access.

Paul Skinner FRPSL Head Curator, Philatelic Collections

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AUCTION REPORT - LEAMINGTON SPA - 1ST JUNE 2014

By Nick Arrow

The Auction proved a fitting climax to a wonderful philatelic weekend - speaking personally, I felt that it was the most enjoyable of all the Leamington Spa weekends I have attended.

There were 13 room bidders and each room bidder was successful for one or more lots. The postal bidders too were usually successful, with only two failing to secure any lots at all. It was noticeable that, in this auction at least, the postal bidders seemed to be striving to outbid each other, which probably reflects the approach I have adopted to try to offer larger collections, where material is better inspected, in order that everything offered is sold, rather than to cherry pick the real goodies, leaving the more standard material to gather dust in my attic.

It is my practice for about 2 weeks after the Auction to accept offers to buy unsold lots at the reserve price, and this boosted the number of lots sold to 132, a little over 50% of the total lots offered. The total amount realised was £4,447, which is a good overall figure, and reflects well on the Society's enthusiasm for the Auction. Only postal bidders are personally notified as to which lots are still available, but I would of course react to any member's enquiry as to whether a certain lot is available after the auction.

I was very impressed that the large collection of 1d Ships, lots 5 - 12, stimulated quite strong bidding - only 2 lots were unsold. Similarly there was considerable interest shown in the Union Commemorative issues and (something of a change for the Society) in the Republic material. The Bill Branney collection did extremely well (and there is more of that to come in November) but overall there seems to be a substantial revival in the Society's general interest in this period - long may it continue. Also, something dear to my heart, the airmail section again did quite well.

What was surprising was that there seemed to be little interest in the more classic material, and the lots of King's Head and Union Pictorial material were largely bypassed, although again the various collections and accumulations were usually disposed of.

Can I make a plea that postal and email bidders let me have a blank cheque in advance of the Auction - this hugely cuts down on my work (and Society's expense) after the Auction. The cheque should be crossed and made payable to "SACS" (NOT me personally!) and endorsed at the top or across the face "Not to exceed £...." (none of which is rocket science) which enormously helps with the administration, accounting, banking and everything else that you can think of!

Finally, may I say that I am desperately short of new material. I am in the process of compiling the November Auction, but I need to have some more material, so I am putting out a general plea that you should all send in your unwanted material for me to sell.

I am regularly impressed by the members' enthusiasm, as well as by the wide variety of philatelic interests that is shown throughout the Society, and the Auctions offer a broad spectrum of material to collect, demonstrating a good way of turning spare material into cash!

Sold Lots

Lot Sale Price

1	£25.00	38	£50.00	92	£35.00	135	£60.00	176	£3.00	213	£2.00
2	£11.00	43	£6.00	93	£100.00	138	£17.00	178	£4.00	214	£5.00
3	£5.00	44	£30.00	95	£160.00	140	£17.00	179	£2.00	215	£5.00
4	£25.00	49	£22.00	107	£30.00	141	£20.00	183	£8.00	216	£5.00
5	£30.00	60	£80.00	112	£30.00	142	£16.00	187	£6.00	218	£65.00
8	£70.00	61	£80.00	113	£10.00	143	£10.00	190	£45.00	222	£4.00
9	£200.00	63	£38.00	116	£20.00	144	£60.00	191	£320.00	223	£4.00
10	£40.00	65	£90.00	118	£28.00	146	£10.00	195	£2.00	224	£4.50
11	£60.00	66	£10.00	119	£3.00	147	£7.00	196	£32.00	227	£65.00
12	£100.00	68	£10.00	120	£7.00	148	£7.00	198	£5.00	230	£15.00
13	£80.00	70	£6.00	121	£5.00	152	£7.00	199	£7.00	232	£32.00
14	£160.00	72	£40.00	122	£8.00	153	£20.00	200	£1.50	233	£100.00
15	£250.00	73	£75.00	123	£50.00	154	£25.00	201	£2.50	234	£32.00
16	£4.00	75	£6.00	125	£16.00	157	£42.00	202	£3.50	236	£38.00
17	£25.00	79	£20.00	126	£10.00	158	£12.00	203	£9.00	237	£46.00
18	£2.50	80	£30.00	127	£60.00	160	£18.00	204	£9.00	240	£15.00
19	£2.50	82	£13.00	129	£8.00	161	£13.00	205	£11.00	241	£35.00
20	£9.00	89	£10.00	131	£50.00	162	£42.00	206	£11.00	243	£40.00
22	£15.00	90	£20.00	132	£4.00	163	£7.00	207	£10.00	244	£10.00
34	£28.00	91	£20.00	133	£5.00	164	£14.00	208	£30.00	245	£32.00
										246	£7.00
										247	£22.00
										248	£35.00
										249	£45.00

ABPS Executive Bulletin June 2014

I have reproduced here a condensed version of this report. A full report is available from our Secretary. *Ed.*

Please remember that although the Speakers List, Handbook and Directory, Leaflets, ABPS Awards and ABPS News are all tangible support for our members but much activity also takes place in the background to facilitate and support national and regional events such as Congress, competitive exhibitions, Midpex etc., all on a voluntary basis. Without the encouragement of our affiliated members, these might disappear completely. ABPS is also supporting the long term development of the hobby through the Stamp Active Network.

ABPS Directory and Speakers List * Important* A major update is being undertaken of both the Directory and Speakers Lists, due to be published in 2015. Any contributions, updates and additions for this should also be sent to Rev John Walden. Please check your current details and advise us of any changes. We would also like copies of any Federation or Society Lists of Speakers. Please send to handbook@abps.org.uk.

More Help Needed Urgently. In particular, we are looking for someone to act as a Website Officer. This is a vital role to improve our communications to members. Can you help? Help is also required to man the information Stand at every Stampex. "One volunteer is worth ten times more than a pressed man!" If you can help ABPS in any way please contact: chair@abps.org.uk

The British Philatelic Trust has now been wound up. Their funds have been distributed to BPMA (£850k), RPSL (£850k) and a new Philatelic Fund has been established (1.7m) under the Chairmanship of Brian Trotter. All these organisations must use these resources in a way consistent with the objectives of the original trust. Applications for funding should now be sent to The Philatelic Fund c/o RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1C 6JY. The Office space at the Business Design Centre (Room 145E) is available for hire (suitable for committee meeting etc) on application to Tina Wilby at RPSL.

Autumn Stampex 2014 is a full National ABPS Exhibition from 17th to 20th September at Business Design Centre, Islington, London. Autumn Stampex 2014 will be a full national Exhibition with all classes. Entry forms for National competitions are now on the ABPS website. There is a new initiative to "Bring a Child to Stampex" to encourage the next generation of collectors with a free draw for a great pack of goodies if you take a younger(U18) to the youth stand during the show, so start planning your visit now. Prizes include an SG Presentation wallet of an 1840 Penny Black RRP £305.

Stamp Active Network: Stamp Active Network will again be at Autumn Stampex with youth activities and a free children's auction. The theme of the event will be "Christmas" A new Website has been launched www.stampactive.co.uk The hosting and maintenance of the site is being funded by the ABPS to support future development of our great hobby. Following the success of Midpex, their committee has agreed to continue to sponsor the Anne Dummer Award for "Young Collector of the Year" Individuals can support Stamp Active by becoming a "Friend of Stamp Active" with an annual payment of £20. For more information contact John Davies. Email:

davies1890@btinternet.com Starter Packs are now available to new organisers of junior or school stamp clubs free of charge, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons A new activity book has been designed on the theme of "All at Sea" available free to young collectors. Plans have also started for an activity book for the 2015 exhibition on "Collecting British Stamps" Kid-stamps continues to flourish with new members in and the largest level of ongoing activity for some time. This postal free club for children is still being run by Tim and Maureen Cory. Tim and Maureen have recently been presented with the Bill Hart Award for outstanding service to youth philately.

Other National and International Events: Joint meeting of RPSL and l'Académie de Philatélie de Belgique 11th to 14th July 2014, Y pres. Display plus RDP ceremony.

Spring Stampex 2015: GBPS with 200 frames.

Autumn Stampex 2015 - GB overprints Society - 100 frames.

2015 Early September - joint UK/Germany national exhibition to be held in Gothe - celebrating 175th anniversary of marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. 200 frames available for UK exhibitors.

Singapore 2015 FIP Exhibition: 11th to 16th August: 50 years independence 2500 frames

Autumn Stampex 2015: Full National ABPS Exhibition: GB Overprints Society 45 years.

Spring Stampex 2016: ABPS Pictorial Classes Thematic, Open and Postcards.

World Stamp Show - New York 2016 28th May to 4th June: Javits Convention Center New York City.

Autumn Stampex 2016: King George VI Society and Cinderella Societies throughout the world.

Spring Stampex 2017: Middle East celebrating 100 years of Iraq stamps. Seminars.

Website: You will find lots of information about clubs around the country, plus local societies. You will also find PDF copies of recent philatelic seminars. www.abps.org.uk



Congress Award

Chris Oliver receiving the prestigious "Congress Medal" at the Philatelic Congress of GB at Market Harborough on 26 July - being presented by John Baron

O



Front Cover

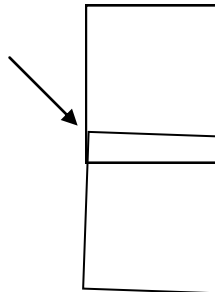
This scarce item was shown by Tony Howgrave-Graham at the recent Leamington weekend.

1972 R1 missing orange which occurs on the bottom of a sheet.

How did it happen.

When the sheet passed through the printer for it's final orange colour it picked up the following sheet before it was clear, creating an overlap. That second sheet also passed through at an angle. This created the last but one row to have different amounts of orange printed on it.

The second sheet with double orange on the top two rows does not exist as far as I am aware. *Ed.*





AfricaStamps.co.uk

New website offering fine Southern Africa stamps and specialised items.



Email: info@AfricaStamps.co.uk

From The Editors Desk

I have received this R2 Building Issue from John Archer and he asks the question: "How could the printing of this issue be so poor when it had been Rechromed?"

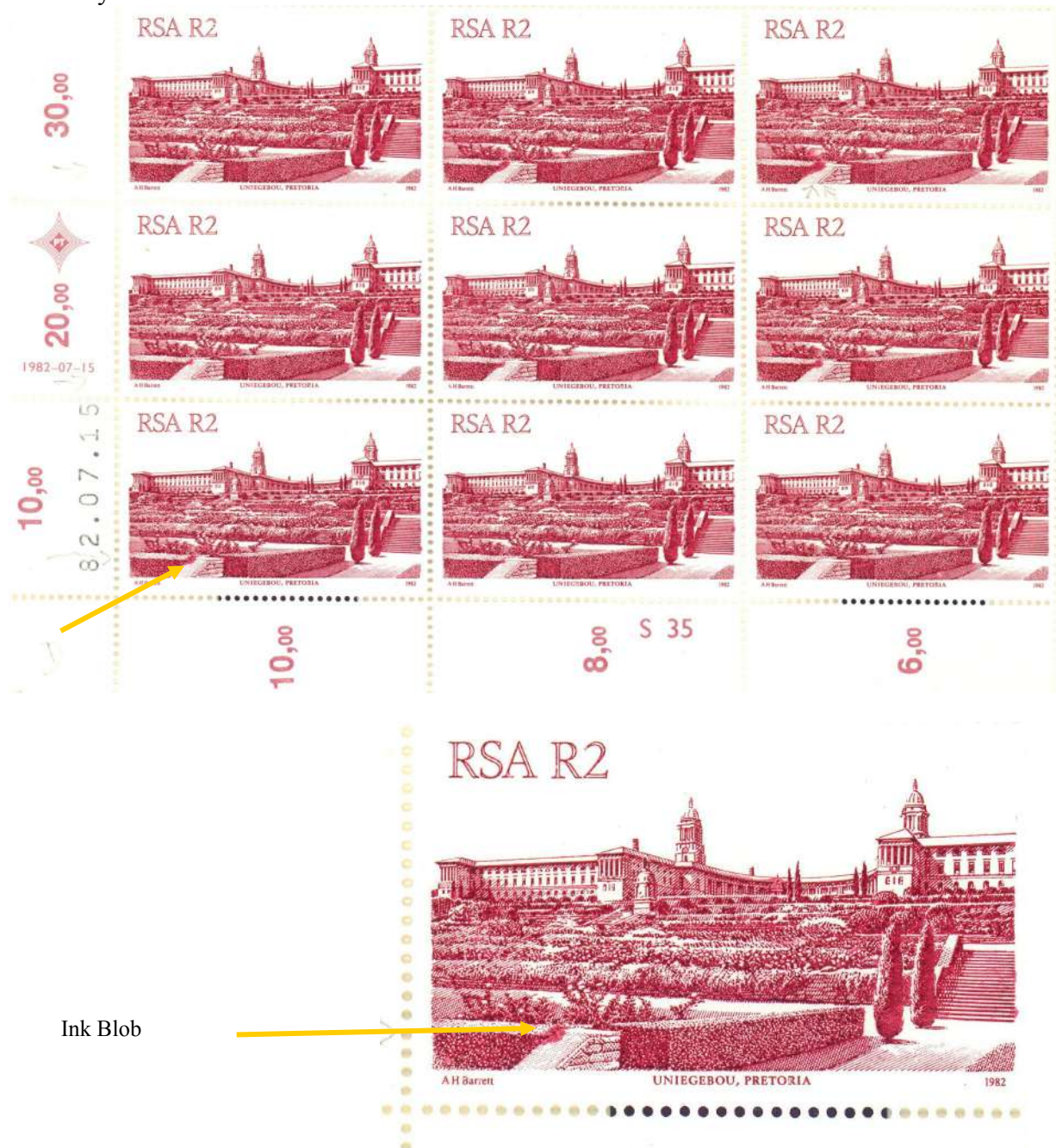
It is actually from the first issue and it is not Rechromed. The Cylinder pane is pane 'B' and the identification marks are: C1/2 Dot in frame of A in A H Barrett

C1/1 Dot below R in RSA

C1/1 Dot in front of wall at 7 o'clock

The marks are for the four left corner stamps. The second stamp down on the left hand side is therefore C1

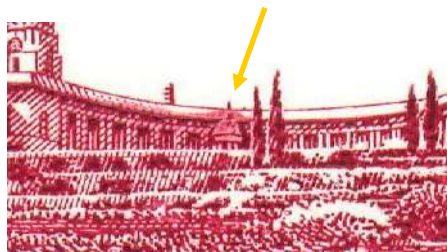
I am enlarging some print faults to highlight the reason why this issue was probably Rechromed. Stamps 1 to 8 have the same ink blob in different sizes at the top of the ramp 'arrowed' and I believe this was caused by over inking of the cylinder. Does any member know any other reason for this nearly constant mark?



Ink Blob

The R2 issue has many faults and this makes for an interesting study. Most faults are not recorded and as I have said in previous articles about the buildings it is my intention to try and compile a comprehensive list of faults. So please would members please keep sending me their findings.

Another common blob on the stamps
opposite



The cylinder starting to wear
Print quality poor



1936 JIPEX Airmail cards

Would members please check their cards and let me know if you have any that have South American destinations.

We are now at a point where it may be confirmed that these cards were catapulted across the Atlantic, but we still may need some more details from the cards.

If you are able please email me a copy if you have any. *Ed.*

An Email from John Shaw 4d Triangular

The Springbok arrived today and I read with interest your short article on the wide margined 4d triangular.

Now my understanding is that the small margin stamps were initially sent post offices, packed in small sealed envelopes of 60 stamps of one language only to be issued on 1st January 1926 and the packets were printed in either English or in Afrikaans, depending upon the language of the stamp contents. You will notice that at each corner of the wide margin stamps, there are little “angles” which are the guide marks for the workers to guillotine the sheets in to their individual stamps. There are, as far as I know, two different types of packet; I have one empty packet of each language of one type and I know Fred Clark had one of each language of a different type.

Now the postal clerks very much disliked the onerous task of opening these packets and counting out single stamps for their customers, and so the 4d triangular was replaced on 23rd March 1928 by the Bradbury Wilkinson 4d Native Kraal stamp, in the same format as the other 2d to 10/- higher value stamps. This in turn enraged the stamp collectors who wanted to keep this “piece of history” and so a compromise was reached; the 4d triangular would remain on sale, but in uncut, imperforate, single language, sheets and only sold to the public in complete sheets of 120 stamps at two pounds per sheet, ie there was to be no messing about by the postal clerks in having to use scissors to cut the stamps out. So, the co-operation, of the postal clerks, and the honour of the philatelists was satisfied!

I have a first day cover dated 1st January 1926 of the cut-down 4d and another cover, purported to be first day for the wide margin types but, until I find it, I cannot give you the date.

Ed. Note: Hopefully when John has recovered from his operation he will send me an update . We wish him a speedy recovery

DID YOU KNOW ...?

Reversed Watermarks – The watermark was not reversed in the paper manufacturing process, but the stamp paper was gummed on the wrong side – thus the watermark shows up in reverse!

UNION OFFICIAL SHEET NUMBERS

By Mike Tonking and Jan Van Beukering

In the April/June 2003 issue of the Springbok I listed the Union sheet numbers as recorded in the SAHB (SAHB) as well as the collections of myself (MJHT), Bob Hisey (RWH), Tony Howgrave-Graham (AHG) and Harry Glazer (HG). Since then I have added the numbers from Ian Matheson (IM) and Jan van Beukering (JVB) whose invaluable computer assistance in preparing this listing is gratefully acknowledged.

It is hoped that this listing maybe of assistance in identifying the Sets to which the Officials should be allocated.

Should any members have additional sheet numbers please advise the editor and they will be added to the list.

Union of South Africa OFFICIALS Sheet number records								May 2014	
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

5	O17	1d.		7912	928	9244	1307	7905	x245
							7907	7907	7902
								7912	9278
								9243	
								9281	
								9342	
		½d						1309	

6	O20	1/2d.	2281	200x	2022	2133	2272	2160	207x
			3288	2343	2262	2219	2413	2272	22xx
					2334			2287	232x
					220x			3288	
					2293				
					2288				
					2289				
	O21	1d.	3391	4460	44xx		0051	4270	
			4322						
	O22	2d.	0538	0811			0540	0538	0771
								0787	
	O23	6d.	9261	94xx	9382	9391	9213	9228	
			9385	9375	9383		9410	3273	

7	O26	½d	8975	9147	859	9153		8975	
								9147	
	O27	1d.	2201	2296	2197		2205	2201	
	O28	2d	0330	0049	0067	0056		0224	0245
									0379
	O29	6d.						8696	
	O30	1/-	8784	9043		8773		8784	
			9166						

8	O32	½d	1661	1645		1687	1678	1661	
			1664					1694	
	O35	6d.	4523		x458			4523	
	O37	2/6	9458					9458	

9	O38	½d	5365	5449	5449		5355	5365	
	O39	1d.	0345					5144	
			4950						
			5151						
	O40	2d.	9468					9165	
	O42	2/6	5879					5879	

Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB
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10	O43	½d	1462	3985	1458	1469	3782	1462	
			4019		3769	3901	4202	4019	
	O44	1d.	9377	9899		9373	0125	9377	0080
	O45	2d.	3088	3505		3072	3502	3499	
			3499						
	O46	6d.	4274	5571	4215		4274	4261	
			5579				4275		

11	O46a	½d					8436		
	O47	1d.	0306	2049		0418	0475	0306	
			2016					2015	
			8487					2039	
								8487	
	O48	2d.	6132				8xxx	6257	
							xx08		

12	O52	½d		7436					
	O52a	1d.	(formerly					8433	
	O53	2d.	7784	7715		7718	812x	7784	
			8146	7716					
	O54	6d.	7252					7252	

13	O56	½d	2766	2660	2838		2869	2813	
				2850				2876	
	O57	1d.	3669			3660	3764	3536	
								3669	
	O58	1½d	5822		702x		5770	5770	
								5822	
	O59	2d.		69xx			70xx		
	O60	6d.						685x	
	O61	1/-	73xx						

Union Official Sheet Numbers

14	O62	½d	3099				3032	2989	
								3032	
								3099	
	O63	1d.	9266				4880	4781	
								4885	
	O64	1½d	6878-7071	2400	1312	6874	1322	1316	
			1313	6822		6992	6987	2408	
			2403				7006	2426	
								2429	
								6880	
								7006	
								7036	
	O65	6d.	2695				2794	2795	
								7164	
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

15	O68	½d	6800		7000		7071	6800	
	O70	1½d	9671-9950				2402	9671	
	O71	2d.	9346						
	O73	6d.					5159		
	O74	1/-	7500 range						

16	O76	1d.	1684	1687				1684	
	O77	1½d	2933	2915blue			2920	1837	
								2933	
								2988	
								4833	
								4837	
	O77a	2d.						2988	
	O78	6d.	4007	4192			400x	1008	
								4007	
								408x	
								8389	
								x815	

17	O80	1½d	7571				xxx8	7571	
	O81	2d.	4910blue			5266	4941	1543	
								4910	
								5032	
	O82	1/-	3369blue	3369blue			7917	7907black	
			7907black					7956black	
								975xblack	
	O83	2/6	3987blue		4xxxblue		x987	4132	
			4132						

Union Official Sheet Numbers

18	O84	½d	1497blue	1470blue	1557blue	1576	1494	1442	
				1474blue				1497	
	O85	1d.	4390			4088	4402	3986	
								4390	
								5082	
	O86	1½d	3240blue	7585blue				3240	
	O87	2d.	2895blue					2895	
								28xx	
	O88	2/6		11xxblue					
	O89	5/-	1183blue				1324	1183	
								1336	
	O90	10/-			8020blue	8940	8152blue		

19	O91	½d	4921	4917				4919	
								4921	
								4411	
	O92	1d.	3591				3605	3591	
	O93	1½d	0973	0582	0663		0572	0596	
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

19 contd.			4463				0597	0964	
								0973	
								4463	
	O94	2d.	2630		2486		2487	2630	2489
			7168		7365			2711	709x
								6389	
								6663	
								7168	
	O95	1/-	3929					3929	

20	O96	½d	7807			7943	x788	7748	
								7807	
	O97	½d	1748	1691			1751	2580	
				1808			1845	2583	
								5249	
								5337	
								5341	
								5343	
								544x	
								5450	
	O99	1½d					6575		
	O100	1½d	7589		7531	6570	7503	7589	7656
	O101	6d.	4615		1624		7562	4615	
								4618	
	O102	1/-	7970red				7975	7970	

Union Official Sheet Numbers

21	O103	½d	2105red	2163red	2180red	2176	2106	2106	
								2161	
								2253	
	O104	1½d	6625red	6784red	7665		6515		
	O105	2d.	6071red		58xx		6137	5725red	6133 red
	O106	6d.	1624red					1636red	
								x622red	
	O107	1/-		1646black					
	O108	2/6	9435red					9435red	
								9520red	

All sheet numbers red from Sets 22 - 30

22	O109	½d	2704	2700	8294	2600	4216	2596	
			4305	2884			4308	2614	
				4397				2839	
								4308	
								4356	
	O110	1d.	5678		5573			5679	
			8130						
	O111	1½d				7368	2937	2918	2810
	O112	2d.	0012	0029	0464	0031		0012	9861
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

22 contd.	O113	6d.	0970					0970	
	O115	2/6					1xxx	1739	
	O116	5/-				4096		1329	
								1476	
	O117	10/-	1856	1855		7022		1856	

23	O118	½d	6695	6659		6444	6522	0491	
							6706	6696	
								6697	
	O119	1d.		2577	5735	5637	5782	4568	
				4455				5782	
								5868	
	O120	1½d	7807		7806			7807	
					7835				
	O121	2d.Iss.9	2232	2077		0899	2128	2041	
				2130				2119	
								2232	
								097x	
		2d.Iss.11	0296			0486	0483		0296
	O122	6d.				3137	6706		
	O123	1/-Iss.4	7227		7203		802x	7200	
					802x		803x	8070	
							8070		
	O124	1/-Iss.5	9376	8178			9465	9376	x468
				9388					
	O125	2/6							
	O126	5/-		x074		1494			

Stereo overprints

24	O127	1d.	6838	6679	6863		6931	6768	
					6838			6835	
					7006			6838	
								6846	
	O128	2d.	2169	2428	5139		2222	1348	2361
							2470	2311	
							2494	2552	
							5108	5107	
								5124	
								5139	
								7017	
								7615	
	O129	6d.	2438	2484			0182	0278	
								0067	
								0465	
								2438	
	O130	1/-	2957	1971			3312	2065	
			3168					2954	
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

24 contd.								2957	
								6032	
	O131	2/6							
	O132	10/-					x343x		
							1159		

25	O133	1d.	6104	2060	2177		2080	2061	
					7103		2157	2177	
							2165	7103	
	O134	1½d	1197	1194	1266			3033	
				1261				3094	
								3134	
	O135	2d.	4483		3270		3329	3190	4493
					6436			3373	
								6436	
								6855	
	O136	6d.		4411			6057	4595	
				4454					
	O137	1/-		3212		3392			
	O138	5/-		3341	3376			3349	
					7650				

26	O139	½d	3865	1487	6305	3844	6743	3839	
			6752	6749	6752	3985		3864	
								3865	
								6664	
								6670	
								6743	
								7370	

Union Official Sheet Numbers

	O140	1d.		4047	3719	3922	6520	3719	
					3951			3934	
								6556	
	O141	1½d	7424	5875	7759		6094	5914	7798
							7444	6010	
								6093	
								6242	
								6259	
								7435	
	O142	6d.					7329	2225	
								7299	
	O143	1/-							

27	O144	½d	1202	1354	1422		1284	1203	
				1357				1525	
				1361				1526	
								1537	
	O145	½d	7370		1525	6325			
Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB

27 contd.	O146	1d.	1640	1595				1577	
			7642	7726				1589	
								1640	
								1733	
								3014	
	O147	1d.	3011	5768	0334			9013	
			8725		8809				

28	O148	1d.	6072	6077			5765	1747	
							6073	6066	
							6106	6104	
	O149	6d.	1181	1128			1132		
	O150	1/-	1916	3507			3210	1796	
			3510					1916	
								2983	
								3510	

29	O151	½d	3171	3190	2xxx	2857	2865	2886	
					2859			2909	
					2873			2952	
					3106			3122	
					3121			3171	
					3171				
	O152	1d.	8990	8993				8809	
								8850	
								8890	
								8992	
	O153	2d.	3190	3480	5485		3430	3214	
								3282	
								3435	
								3433	

Union Official Sheet Numbers

							3445	
							3519	
							5134	
							5485	
	O154	6d.		x548		9659	9564	
							9724	
							9767	
							9767	
	O155	1/-	50362	50395			50347	50351
							50360	50380
							50371	
	O156	2/6	9043	8734				9043
	O157	5/-	1056	1306		164x		1056
				1626				

Set	SAHB	Value	SAHB	MJHT	RWH	AHG	HG	IM	JVB
-----	------	-------	------	------	-----	-----	----	----	-----

30	O158	½d	0166	0509	0257	0163	0170	0245	0158
			8994	8962	0263		0231	0163	0159
							0509	0166	1071
							8979	0632	9007
							8984	5759	
							9245	8959	
								8995	
								9072	
								9086	
	O159	1d.	1536	159x	1524	155x	1362	0334	1383
			9795		4733		1737	1389	
					9701		175x	1524	
							1662	1726	
	O160	1d.			1745		9795	9795	
								9978	
	O161	6d.	9724	0058			9863		
	O162	1/-		1884	xx26	2005		183x	
	O163	2/6	8324	xx50	8439		8415	8324	0305
								8439	
								8485	
	O164	5/-		0618			xxx2	0389	

Important Notice regarding the PACKET EXCHANGE

Packets have almost ground to a halt!!

As I write this only 1 packet is currently circulating. I have some books here that have already been seen by some members and I may be able to use those to make up 2 more packets once the one currently in circulation has completed its circuit of about a quarter of the packet list. However, without more material, the packets are in danger of grinding to a halt. So, if you have any material you wish to sell, and can spare a bit of time to make them up into books you would help both yourself and the society.

Thank you.

Tony Johnson (Packet Exchange Manager)

.....

1950 Union Official 2d Stereo Type with Inverted Overprint SG 045a (was 038a) By Otto Peetoom

.....

On 23 August 1983 I was at Sotheby Parke Bernet's auction in Johannesburg and lot 379 offered:

1949/50 Officials, 2d fine mint pair with unauthorised 'Official' overprint (S.G. 035), large part o.g. (photo) R40/60



When the hammer fell I had bought it for R190 and afterwards Henk de Lange informed me that he had found it in a club approval

book as SG 038 and had paid a few cents for it. Having only been in the Stamp trade for some four years, I never gave my purchase a second glance and returned home to England with my first mint 035.

A KGVI collector asked for it on approval and telephoned me a few days later informing me that the overprint was not quite right and I was more than likely in possession of a forgery. Somewhat crestfallen my pair of 'dud' officials was returned to me and upon closer examination I realized that on a 035 the 'O' in OFFICIAL/OFFISIEEL needed to be oval instead of circular. Then I compared my dubious pair to a normal SG 038 and could not see any difference between the overprints, the measurements were identical and the type of ink used also matched, could I possibly have an unrecorded inverted overprint? I could feel my eyes developing \$ signs, but first there was a matter of verification.

My first action was to do as much of my own 'homework' as possible and I have recently located my 1983/84 correspondence on the matter that started with a 12 September 1983 longwinded letter to Sotheby's. In it I debated the issue which concluded that it was either a genuine pair of stamps with a forged overprint or stamps & overprint genuine having discovered a new variety of 038 and suggested it be sent to an expert committee.

The auctioneers did not quite grasp what I was on about and their reply, dated 28 September, emphasised that their description stipulated it was an 'unauthorised official overprint (SG 035)' and added 'As far as the illustrations are concerned regarding squashed '0's, I think these could well be misleading. By all means submit the stamp for certificate but there is no question of returning it if you are not happy with the certificate you obtain due to the fact that our description was quite clear regarding the status of the item.'

In the meantime I had sought an opinion of Eric Sherwood in Manchester and on 28.9.1983 he wrote:

'Although it matches up with the type used for the last series of officials I find it strange that in the period from then until now I have not seen any previous reference to such stamps.'

I also showed this official to Alan Leverton of Bridger & Kay and sought his opinion with a definitive reply that my pair was not 035.

30 October 1983 - Another letter to Sotheby in an attempt to convey that lot 379 is not a 035, that I was making enlarged photographs of related material and that the item was to be submitted to the P.F.S.A. The foregoing was carried out and on 8 December 1983 I submitted an article to the S.A.P. with a heading: -

Do We Have a New 'Official' Discovery?

After that flurry of activity it became a waiting game and I heard nothing further for some seven months, during early July 1984 I was verbally informed by Sotheby that the expert committee had decided both stamps and overprints are genuine, but it required more letters to spur on the P.F.S.A. in returning the pair to me in England.

In the meantime I gave the new discovery some publicity and in the October 1984 edition of Stamp Magazine an illustration appeared along with a dozen lines of text under the caption *Inverted Overprint.*



The Illustration is from a Stanley Gibbons Johannesburg 21 April 1988 Auction

The characteristic of the marginal arrow proves it is from Cylinder 6927/50
Ian Matheson's collection includes a bottom marginal arrow block of eight

1950 Union Official 2d Stereo Type with Inverted Overprint SG 045a (was 038a)

I wrote to Stanley Gibbons and Bridger & Kay requesting they list it in their next catalogue. From the latter firm I received the following comment dated 26 July 1984: *'I am most interested in the comments regarding the S. Africa 2d Union Building with official overprint. In my opinion, this could either be a proof or part of an unissued printing, but I find it very difficult to understand how such an item has gone for so long undetected if it is, in fact, an issued stamp.'*

I will certainly list this as a footnote, but cannot say I would list as a full number until at least another pair turns up.'

My initial price for the first and only known inverted overprint variety of SG 038 was £3000, it was not snapped up immediately and I recall that I sold to a KGVI dealer for around £2700.

Then they came out of the woodwork

Unless one is very observant, as this particular variety has demonstrated, it is quite easy to overlook an inverted overprint, my publicity of its existence will have spurred collectors and dealers alike to have a second look at their quantities of mundane and very cheap 2d Officials. It did not take long and pairs, blocks or larger multiples to come out of the woodwork, their owners must have been delighted with their finds. As far as I am aware not one single used copy has come to light.

In my opinion this inverted overprint has to be a genuine mistake as it ended up in the normal stock and remained undiscovered for more than thirty years. I cannot help but wonder if there were some collectors who found that they did not own a SG 035, but a 038a instead – Renumbered SG 045a.

It is not possible to determine how many 2d inverted overprints exist and it has been my opinion from the outset that it ought to be rarer than 035, yet the current catalogue values are oceans apart. There is a very good explanation for the foregoing; there is a space for a 035 in every printed KGVI album, but sadly no home for 045a – thus the demand for a 035 outstrips the other and the price reflects that.

Hindsight is wonderful, if I had today's experience, back in the early 1980's and came across an inverted overprint on a cheap stamp, I would not publicize it, instead I would advertise a good buying price for the stamp, buy thousands of them and hopefully find several inverts amongst such a holding – all wishful thinking.

Forgeries - It comes as no surprise that forged inverted overprints exist on the 2d Union building official and it is not long ago that I received an email asking if I could authenticate a pair. Forgers often make obvious mistakes and in this case the overprint was on the wrong printing. The 2d on UHB Sets 24 & 25 are overprinted on Issue 14 from cylinders 6927/50 with a distinct deep violet shade and I have only seen the inverted overprint on that issue.

The forged overprint I was presented with was on a later issue. The only other 2d Stereo official overprint is Set 29, issue 15 using cylinders 30/18.



Genuine pair with a distinct frame shade from Cylinders 6927 - 50 April 1950



This shade does not appear to match Issue 14 or 15 and the overprint is too thin

My thanks to the following for their input & cooperation
Henk de Lange, Alan Leverton & Ian Matheson

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The Perforation Problem with the R2 First Issue of the Building Series

By Mike Tonking

The first issue of the R2 Building Series gave rise to a major perforation problem experienced by the Government Printer. To understand the reason for the problem it is necessary to describe the method of printing and perforating the large format Building Series stamps. They were printed in sheets containing four unidentified panes, 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. Fig. 1. At the delivery side of the Giori 841 press the four pane sheets were cut in half between panes 'B' and 'C' prior to being perforated in pairs by the Government appliance. Fig. 2.

In the correct perforating method the perforator moved from right to left which resulted in the 'B' and 'D' panes having imperforated right margins and the 'A' and 'C' panes having all four margins perforated. The direction of the perforations may be identified by the larger gap between perforations at the right OR LEFT OF THE STAMP. Fig 3. When perforated correctly it is seen at the left of the stamp and when incorrectly at the right of the stamp. These gaps were caused by overpitching of the cam devise.

The first R2 value issue was a recess printed on the Giori 841 press against job number 2986,21 for 115000 sheets. After the first 62,260 sheets had been printed the cylinder S35 was damaged and then had to be Re-chromed. Prior to this, a major mistake was made with the perforating whereby approximately 7000 sheets (11%) were incorrectly perforated from the left to right which resulted in the left side sheet margins of the 'A' and 'C' panes being imperforated and the 'B' and 'D' panes having all four margins perforated. This was contrary to Post Office requirements and now gave the Philatelic Bureau a problem as they could not now separate control blocks without having to cut sheet margins instead of merely tearing along the perforation.

The Government Printer then destroyed the 7000 sheets and only issued the 'B' and 'D' panes for sale. To the best of my knowledge no examples of the 'A' and 'C' panes have been found with imperforated left margins.

This costly mistake also occurred in the case of the 15c value (cylinder S 26 83. 02.09) where approximately 4000 sheets were destroyed for the same reason.

Figures 4,5 and 6 illustrate examples of the incorrect and correct perforated 'B' and 'D' panes.

Fig. 1 Four Pane uncut sheet as printed

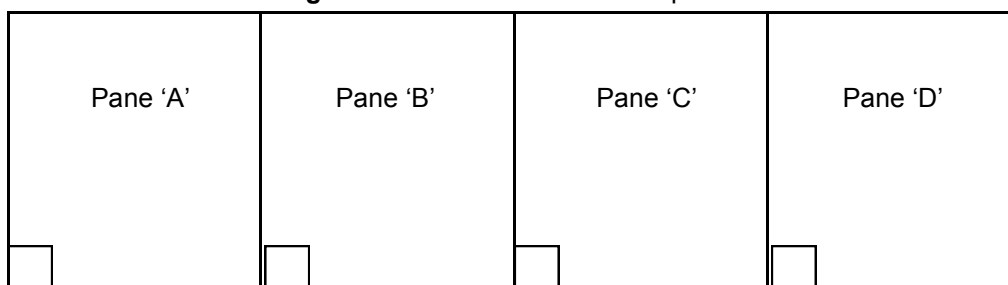
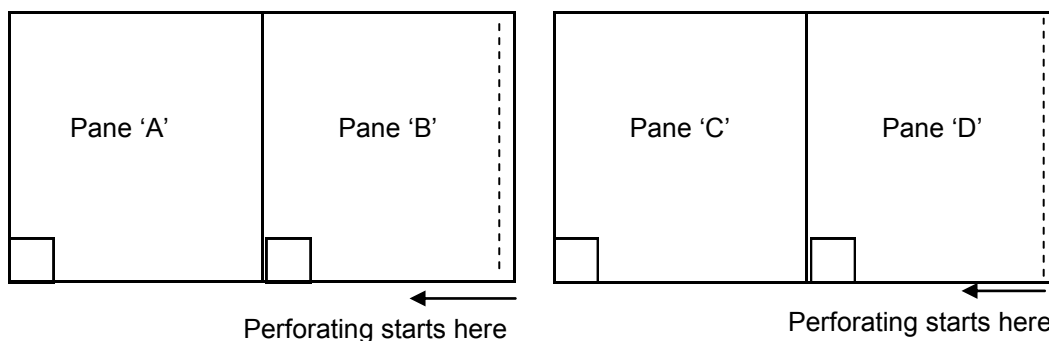


Fig. 2 Sheet cut in half for perforation
Correct perforation from right to left
Panee 'A' and 'C' perforated through all sheet margins
Panee 'B' and 'D' imperforated sheet margins



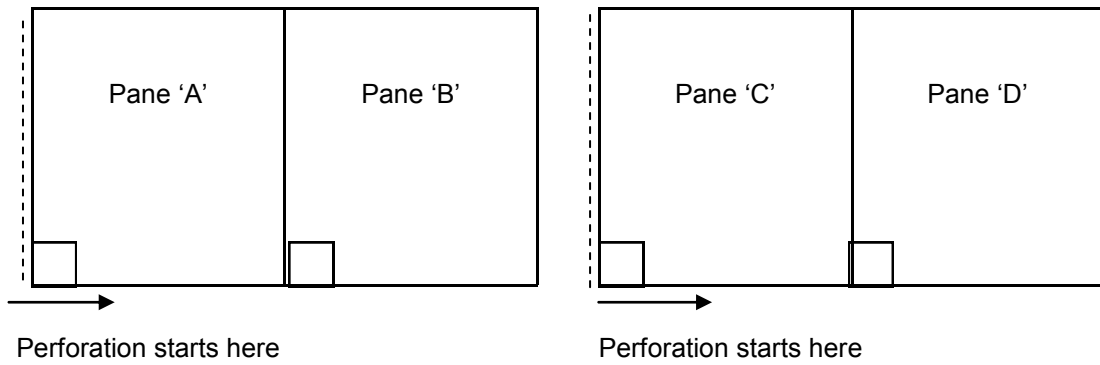


Fig. 3 Perforation Gaps.

Correctly Perforated - Gap at left of stamp



Incorrectly Perforated - Gap at right of stamp



Fig. 4 'B' Pane incorrectly perforated from left to right.
 Perforated right margin with perforation gap at right of stamp.
 C1/1 - Dot below right leg of 'R' in RSA.
 SM - Dot to top right of PT Emblem.



Customs Duty/Douane update

By Leon Jacobson

I have been a long time collector of the above and enjoyed reading Giovanni's recent article. The Springbok Vol.62 No. 2. I would like to accept his request to share some additional information on these and I show a few of my favourite items, some unlisted I believe. Firstly, however, an acknowledgement to Hugh Amooore who turned my accumulation into a collection. The annotations with some of the illustrations are in his distinctive handwriting.

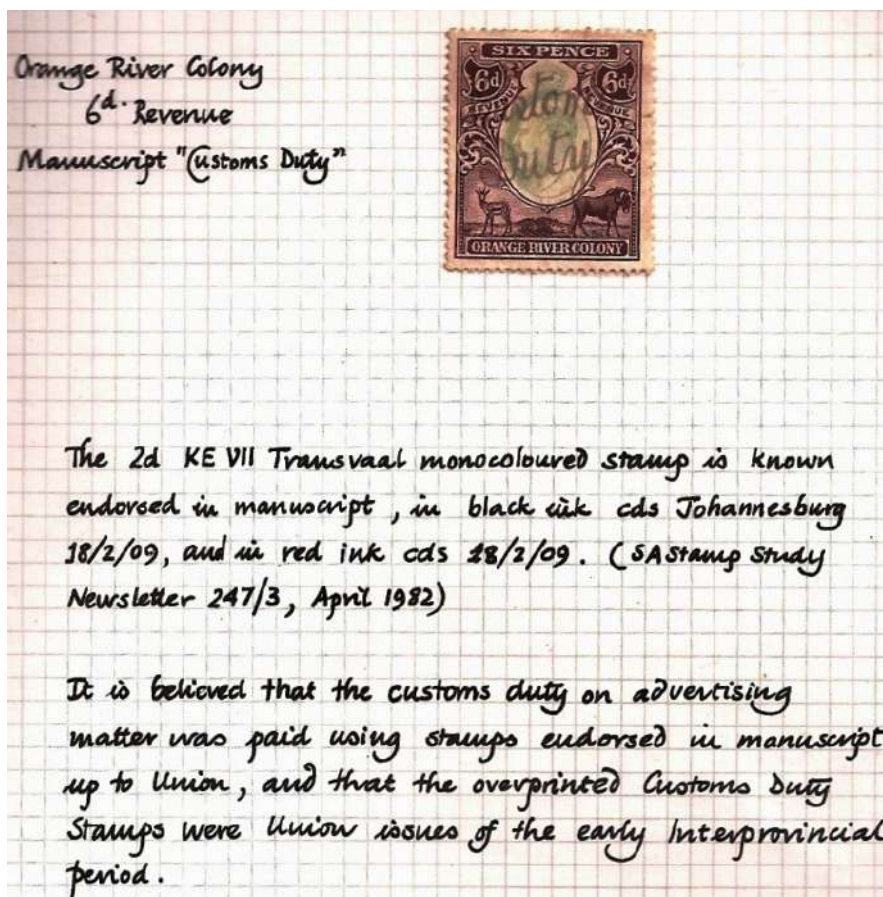


Fig. 1
OFS 6d Revenue endorsed "Customs Duty" in green



Fig. 2
Missing stop variety



Fig. 3
Strip of three of the 1st roto gravure Springbok halfpenny showing two plate flaws: "tag on ear" and "\$". Collecting these plate flaws is quite a challenge but most rewarding especially in pairs or strips.



Fig. 4

Two more halfpenny plate flaws, an oblique green line at bottom left and the "snail" flaw and missing stop after "Douane"



Fig. 5
2d roto with broken
"E" and missing
stop



Fig. 6 DOUANIE
variety

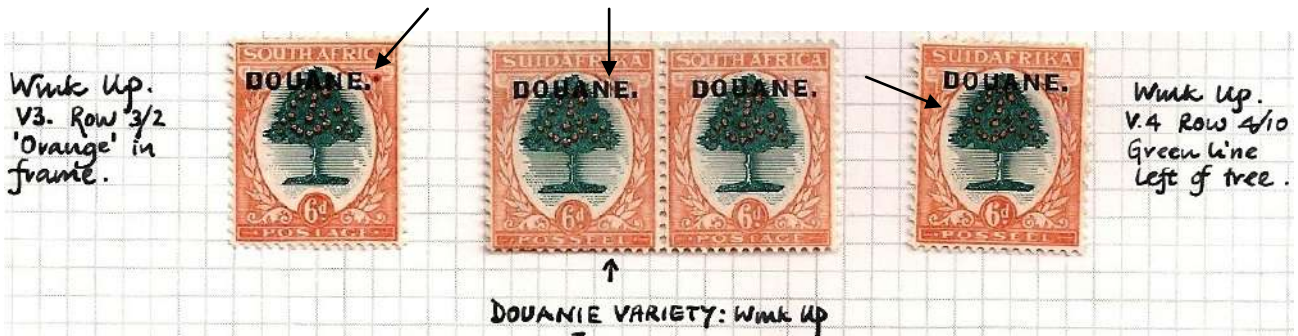


Fig. 6

First 6d roto showing two plate flaws "orange in frame" and "green line to left of tree" as well as an overprint flaw showing thin vertical line like a "l" after the "N" making the overprint look like "DOUANIE"



Fig. 7
2d hyphenated roto showing a very small stop
(intermediate to missing)



Fig. 8
Cylinder block of the 1d wildebeest



Fig. 9
Cover from France showing a rectangular boxed cachet reading "CUSTOMS DUTY PAID/INVOERREGTE BETAALD" dated circa 1930's

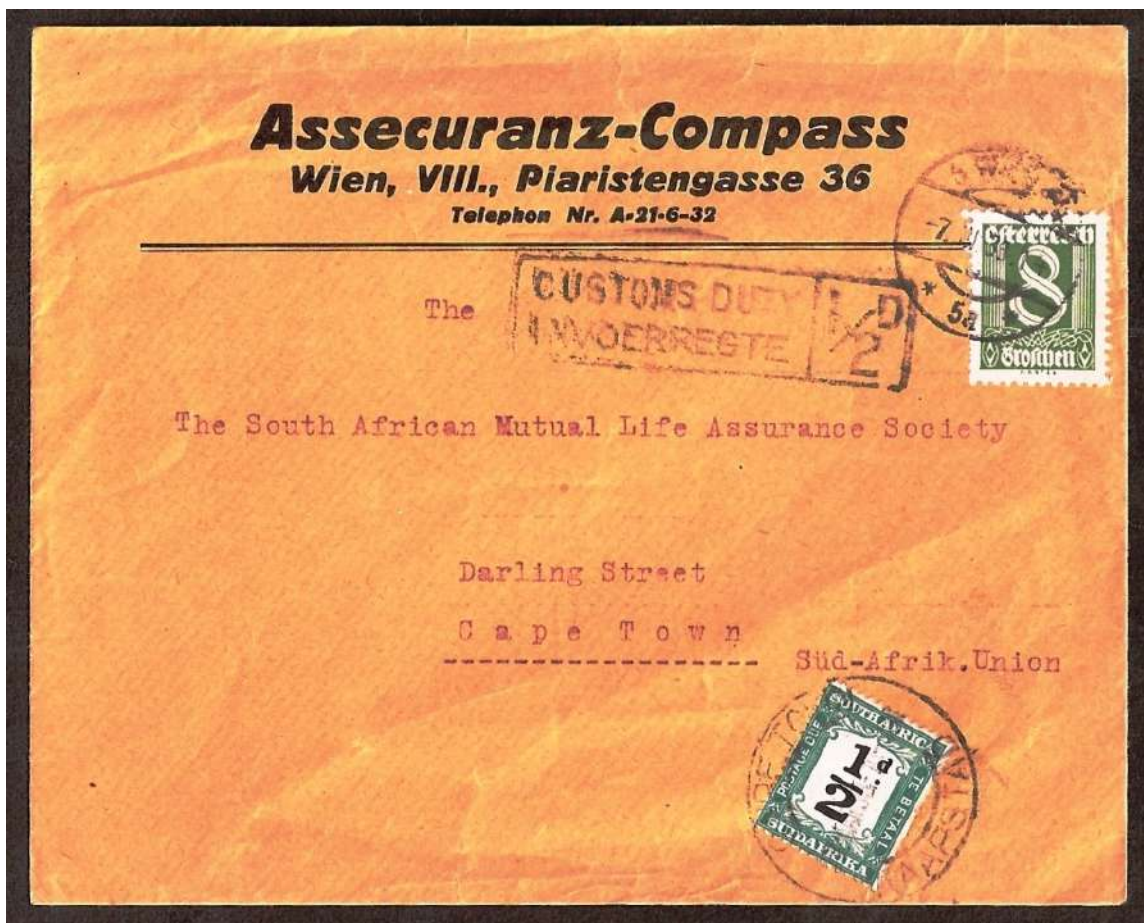


Fig. 10
Cover from Austria with customs duty paid by a half penny postage due stamp. Note the boxed "CUSTOMS DUTY/INVOERREGTE 1/2^D" cachet

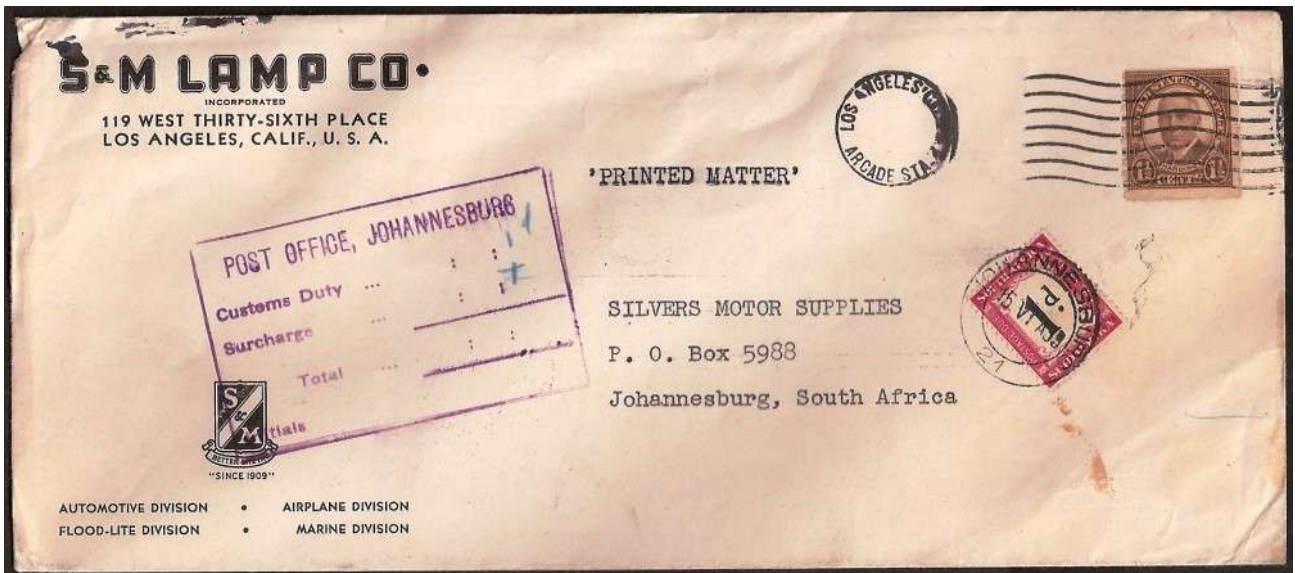


Fig. 11
Cover from USA with large boxed cachet of Johannesburg with 1d postage due paying the duty



Fig. 12
Cover from France with a circular "CUSTOMS DUTY 1c DOEANE REGTE" cachet and a 1c postage due

These stamps and their postal history are a fascinating sideline to collect. They are more than just revenue stamps. The fact that the duties collected are receipted on the covers makes them an interesting aspect of postal history especially that the amount of tax depends on the weight of the sending, very much like postal rates, and that often postage dues were used to collect the tax. There is still much to learn about these often elusive items.

Revisiting the 3rd Definitive Perforations

By Mike Tonking

During the five year period from 27 May 1977 the third definitive Protea series were issued. The printing was by Gravure and Lithography, both methods were used in order to be able to meet the quantity of each value required for the initial issue. This period saw the development of perforating methods used by the Government Printer largely brought on by the various problems experienced with the De la Rue Giori in built perforator. Four different perforating appliances were used with two different perforating gauges namely 12,5 x 12,5 and 41 x 13,75. Unfortunately it is not always possible to positively identify the different perforators used from examination of either a cylinder block or sheet. For example perforators were not always set up to perforate in the same way thus leaving one side margin imperforate or perforating all four sheet margins. At times the top and bottom margins were imperforated or either top or bottom imperforate and the other perforated. The Government Printer was only interested in producing a good product and left the student of the Proteas to worry about the type of perforator used.

The De La Rue Giori 841 Press with the in-built Perforator

This rotary perforator formed part of the De La Rue Giori press first commissioned in 1973. It was a continuous source of problems which in the end resulted in the use of external perforating appliances. Of the seventeen Protea values only nine were perforated on the in-built perforator to a gauge of 12,5 x 12,5.

The in-built perforator always left the top and bottom sheet margins imperforated apart from a single hole at the end of each vertical row of perforations. Both left and right sheet margins of both panes were always perforated.

A characteristic of this perforator was an additional perforation hole in the top and bottom margins over and above the single hole Fig. 1.



Beacon perforation hole between rows 3 and 4

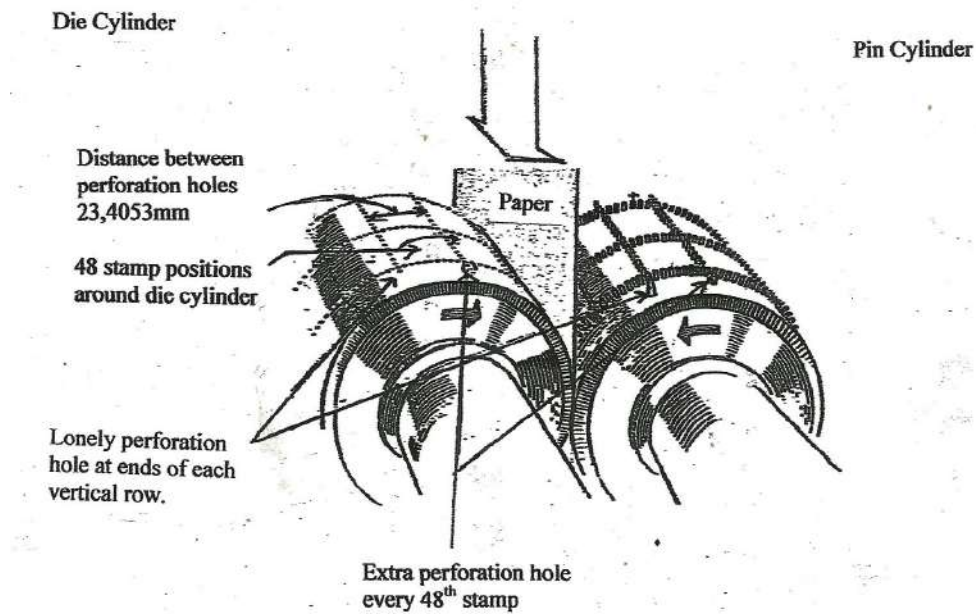
This beacon hole appeared on every fourth pane in any print run however, if for any reason the press was stopped the system had to be resynchronised which could leave the beacon hole in a different position on the pane or even on a different pane.

The circumference of the gravure printing cylinder was 573,7992 mm being half that of the perforation cylinder which was 1147,5984 mm thus the gravure cylinder revolved twice for every revolution of the perforating cylinders. This is why the beacon hole was only present on every fourth pane printed. The purpose of the beacon hole was to facilitate the location of any bent or broken pin which otherwise would have been very difficult. Fig. 2.

The Protea stamps all had a width of 23,9083mm which meant that 48 rows of stamps were perforated on each revolution of the perforating cylinders. Since the perforating speed was about 400 sheets per hour the printing rate had to be slowed down in line with the perforator speed. In addition the perforator was subject to high wear rates and generally gave operating problems. In view of this it was not surprising that the Government Printer finally gave up and then and then only used external perforators.

It was indeed fortunate that the Government Printer had purchased external perforating appliances which could be utilised to ensure the supply of stamps. At this time there were seven such perforators, all of which were used at one time or another to perforate the Protea series stamps.

- Two Grover perforators purchased in 1959
- Two Walter Kroll perforators purchased in 1975
- One Walter Kroll perforator purchased in 1976
- Two Bickel perforators purchased in 1980



Grover Perforator

The Grover perforator was a flat bed two row or double comb perforator which perforated a single row of stamps on all sides as well as the vertical legs of the next row of stamps. Any perforation irregularity appeared on every alternate row of stamps. Fig.3

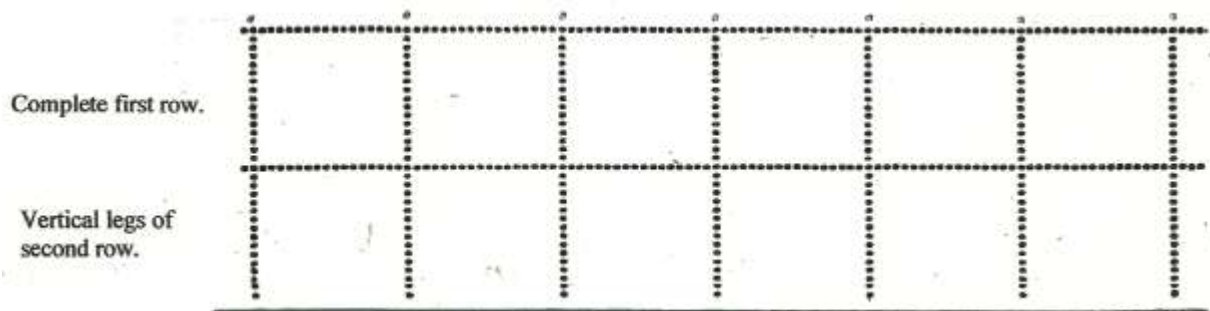


Fig. 3
Grover two or double row perforator

When originally purchased the perforating gauge was 14 x 13,75 which later was changed to 12,5 x 12,5 in conformity with the gauge of the in-built perforator. It was then changed back to 14 x 13,75 gauge, being first used to perforate the 20c dated 16 February 1978 at the time the in-built perforator was out of order. This change was prompted by the Post Office and Philatelic Services to allow easier separation of the stamps.

In the first instance single punch holes were made once in the top and bottom sheet margins of the 'B' pane to align the sheets correctly on the perforator bed. Fig. 4.



Fig. 4
20c Group 1 issue 2 dated 16.02.78
Showing Grover punch hole in bottom margin

For a number of reasons this did not work well, and it was not long before it was decided to revert to a feeding tray. About five sheets each made up of two panes were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of approximately 700 sheets per hour.

Normally both 'A' and 'B' panes had imperforated top and bottom margins with a single perforation hole at the ends of each vertical row which was similar to the in-built perforator without the beacon holes. Again, normally right and left margins of the 'A' pane and right margin of the 'B' pane were perforated with only the 'B' pane having an imperforated left margin. This was not always so as in some cases all four margins were perforated, for example the 10c issue 2 dated 27 October 1980. Fig. 5.



Fig. 5
10c Value issue 2 dated 27 October 1980
'A' and 'B' panes perforated left margins

Walter Kroll Perforator Fig. 6

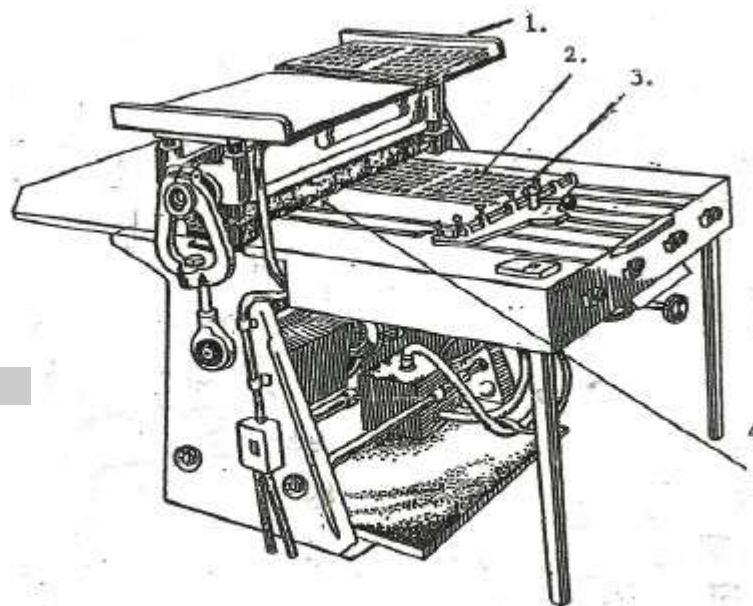


Fig. 6

- 1. Perforated sheet storage tray.
- 2. Five sheets on feed tray.
- 3. Gripper clamps with pins.
- 4. Perforating head with pins on top.

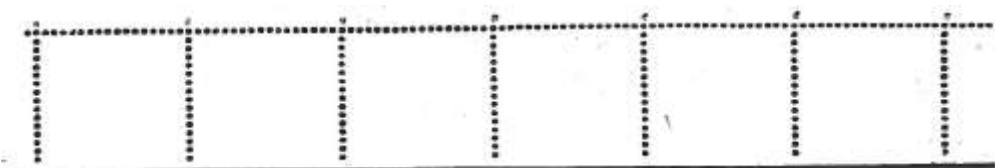


Fig. 7 Walter Kroll single row perforator

Walter Kroll Perforator:



Like the Grover this was a flat bed perforator which in the first instance was equipped with a single comb. Fig. 7. The operation was similar to the Grover except that the sheet travel direction was reversed. The gripper clamp screws had pins which left tiny holes in the left margin of the 'B' pane which, when present, can be used to identify this perforator. Fig. 8.

Fig. 8
20c Value perforated by the Walter Kroll
Single row perforator gauge 12,5 x 12,5

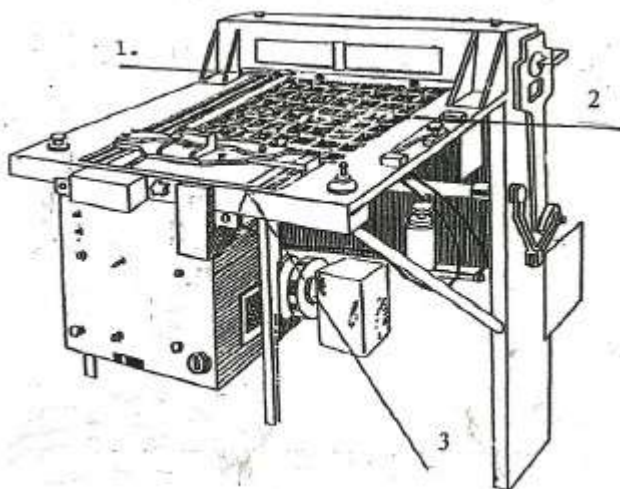
Five sheets were perforated at a time which resulted in a rate of 500 sheets per hour. This was slower than the Grover however the results were considered to be better. Wear rates of the pins and die were not high with about 40,000 sheets being perforated before the replacement of the perforating heads was required. The perforator was originally purchased with a 12,5 x 12,5 perforating head. It was first used to perforate the 9c issue 1 dated 25 May 1975. Generally this perforator perforated the right and left sheet margins leaving the top and bottom margins imperforated, except for a single hole at the ends of the vertical rows of perforations. A further twenty values were so perforated.

It was reported that on 25 July 1979 a new single row perforating head gauge 14 x 13,75 was made and used only once for perforating the 3c group 2 issue 1 dated 1 October 1979. It would appear that this was done to be in conformity with the Grover gauge 14 x 13.75 which was also used for the same issue.

On 9 August 1979 a new two row perforating head gauge 14 x 13,75 was introduced for the first time. This head was modified by the removal of the bottom row of horizontal pins so that it would not completely perforate two rows but act in exactly the same way as the Grover two row comb perforator. This was done to avoid the possibility of a double strikes after every second row of stamps. It was used for the first time to perforate the 6c issue 2 dated 15 August 1979. All told, six more values were perforated with this perforator which normally perforated all four sheets margins.

Bickel Perforator Fig. 9

By 1980 the Walter Kroll company had gone out of business so the Government Printer turned to E. Bickel of Heilbronn for the supply of two perforators which were installed in August 1980.



- 1. Perforating head with pins on top.
- 2. Stamp sheets on feed table.
- 3. Gripper clamp mechanism.

Fig. 9 Bickel Perforator

As a flat bed perforator the operation was very similar to both the Grover and Walter Kroll perforators, however for the first time the motion was both mechanical and pneumatic. The Grover was purely mechanical and the Walter Kroll mechanical and hydraulic. As in the case of the Walter Kroll perforator the four to five sheets on the feed table were pushed through below the raised perforator pins and then perforated as the table returned to its original position.

As far as can be ascertained the only Protea value to be perforated by the Bickel perforator gauge 14 x 13,75 was the 50c issue 2 dated 9 October 1980. In this case all four margins were perforated.

References and acknowledgements
 Fundamentals of Philately - Williams
 Newsletters - RSA Stamp Study Group
 Newsletters - SA Stamp Study Circle
 Newsletters - SA Collectors Society
 South African Philatelist

3rd Definitive Protea Series - Perforations by Mike Tonking

G = Gravure
 L = Lithography
 IB = In-built perforator 12,5 x 12,5 gauge
 G2 = Grover two row perforator
 WK1 = Walter Kroll single row perforator

WK2 = Walter Kroll two row perforator
 B = Bickel perforator 14 x 13,75 gauge
 12 = 12,5 x 12,5 gauge
 14 = 14 x 13,75 gauge

Value	Print date	Suffix	Cyl/Plate	Gravure	Litho	Perforator				
						IB	G2	WK1	WK2	B
1c	9.9.76	-0	722-26	x		x				
	21.10.80	-1	"	x		x				
2c	30.9.76	-0	722-30	x		x				
3c	10.8.76	-0	718-22	x		x				
	10.8.76	-0	"	x		x		x12		
	30.1.78	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	22.8.78	-2	"	x		x				
	27.10.78	-3	"	x		x	x12	x12		
	20.3.79	-4	"	x					x12	
	1.10.79		1254-57			x		x14	x14	
4c	30.12.76	-0	722-46	x		x				
	16.8.77	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
	16.8.77	-0	"	x				x12		
	10.4.78	-2	"	x			x12	x12		
	30.6.78	-3	"	x		x				
	19.10.78	-4	"	x		x	x12			
	4.12.78	-5	"	x					x12	
	9.2.79	-6	"	x					x12	
5c	13.12.76	-0	722-54	x		x				
	15.12.76	-0	"	x		x				
	3.12.79	-1	"	x		x				
	4.3.81	-2	"	x		x	x14			
	4.2.82	-3	"	x			x14			
6c	22.5.77		P1077-65		x			x12		
	15.8.79		1227-33		x				x14	
7c	25.5.77		P1077-81		x			x12		
	19.3.79		1199-1204		x			x12		
	19.9.80		1310-15		x		x14			
8c	11.1.77	-0	722-50	x		x				
	10.7.81	-1	"	x			x14			
	15.1.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	11.5.82	-3	"	x			x14			
9c	27.5.75		P1056		x			x12		
	22.12.78		1174-79		x		x14			
	11.7.79		1216-20		x			x12		

Value	Print date	Suffix	Cyl/Plate	Gravure	Litho	Perforator				
						IB	G2	WK1	WK2	B
10c	13.1.77	-0	722-42	x		x				
	26.4.79	-1	"	x		x				
	27.10.80	-2	"	x			x14			
	12.1.82	-3	"	x			x14			
15c	3.11.76	-0	722-34	x		x				
	21.6.78	-1	"	x		x				
	5.7.79	-2	"	x		x				
20c	21.2.76	-0	722-38	x		x				
	16.2.78	-1	"	x			x12	x12		
							x14			
	6.1.82	-2	"	x			x14			
	24.5.82		1468-72		x					x14
25c	27.5.77		P1082		x			x12		
	3.6.80		1292		x		x14			
	26.10.80		1415-21		x					x14
30c	27.5.77		P1087		x			x12		
	19.5.78		1131-36		x			x12		
	19.10.80		1346-51		x		x14			
50c	27.5.77		P1055		x			x12		
	9.10.80		1316-21		x					B
	10.2.82		1439-44		x					x14
R1	25.7.77		P1097		x			x12		
	19.3.79		1205-11		x			x12		
	30.7.80		1303-09		x					x14
	30.4.82		1461-67		x					x14
R2	25.5.77		P1066		x			x12		
	25.5.81		1393-98		x					x14

RSA STAMP STUDY GROUP NEWSLETTER INDEX

An index of the Study Group's newsletters appeared as an annexure to Newsletter 96 in 1992. From 1998 we published an annual index.

Denise Powell has now consolidated all these bits and pieces into one publication up to June 2014. The A5 publication is available at R50 plus postage from her at deapea@telkomsa.net or through Connie Liebenberg at jacoli@mweb.co.za.

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